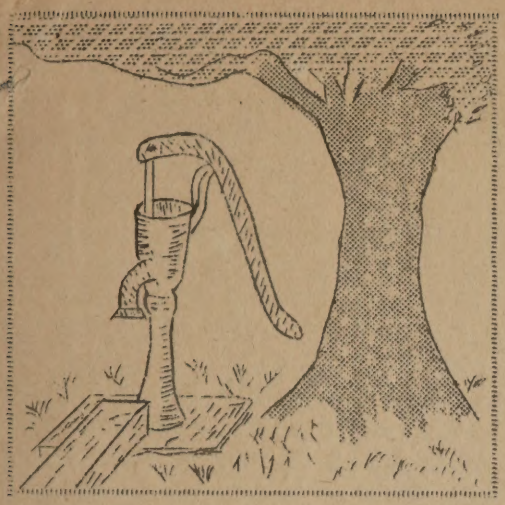

THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP

VOL.1 NOVEMBER, 1944 NO.6

Recently a few of us attended a meeting which took up the problem and technicalities of hiring returned veterans. The speaker, an Army Colonel, spoke in rather general terms and seemed more concerned with the attitude which will be accorded the service men rather than the technical laws under which a veteran will be hired. To me this was one key to our ways of democracy.

It was not odd that the Colonel should be concerned for, we, as the folks back home, are trying to find ways of making your return a "home-coming". A job is a necessity and will be willingly and gratefully given, but above that we feel that what you really look forward to is "home". "Home" meaning not only the house where you lived but the things that went with it; the folks, the schoolboy pals, the nightly bull session at the corner store, the dance at the hall, and of course a date with the girlfriend. These are the things you long for, and that is the picture you want to fit into.

Perhaps you feel we shouldn't be thinking in terms of a homecoming, that the end is still a long ways off. Yes, we realize that, and it has not interfered with the job we feel we're doing for you, but you can't blame us for hoping, can you ?

The G.I. Bill of Rights has outlined the material gains, the employment rights and the educational opportunities due a returning veteran- the most generous offered any country's servicemen. Yet, somehow, happiness cannot be decreed by law, but we back in Ashby feel we can give it to you- and very soon we hope.

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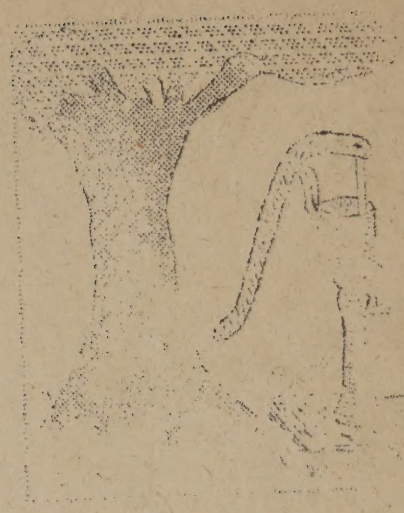
The town of Ashby has received the honor of being the first town or city in the entire state to reach its quota and to turn in its report of the National War Fund Council drive. Its quota of $ 718 was exceeded by $ 370, reaching a total of $ 1088.32.

Under the chairmanship of Walter Piper the entire corps of workers made an extensive house to house canvas during the first week of the campaign. Results were gratifying as shown by the high total reached. The workers included Mrs. Frank Lyman, Theodore Ketonen, Mary Curran, Eleanor Wright, Verner Ketonen, Mrs. Chester Hopkins, Mrs. Alfred Brewer, Mrs. Luther Hayes, Mrs. Howard Wilkinson, Fred L. Taylor, Mrs. Frank Guyer, Kenneth Crocker 2nd, Edna Johnson, Mrs. Alfred Ouellette, Ruth Cheney, Rauni Honkala, Arthur Johnson, Mrs. Fred Bernhardt, Jr., Mrs. Floyd Hietala, Sulo Mickola and Henry Johnson.

THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP



Sgt. Robert E. Piper

Four years ago, in October 1940, "Bud" enlisted in the National Guard to prepare himself for service in World War II. In January 1941, he was inducted into the regular Army and was joined up with the 181st Field Artillery. He trained one year at Camp Edwards, Mass. and at Fort Bragg, No. Carolina. In January 1942, he was sent overseas, where he has served among other places, and in different outfits, in Australia, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal and other Solomon Islands, Fiji Islands and other islands in that Pacific area. He is now with the 221st Field Artillery somewhere in the same area, and possibly may hop the next "Trans" to the States. His parents hear from him regularly, and all is well. Hats off to our veteran Sgt. "Bud".

"Cam" Piper

Since Cam's transfer from Miami, Florida, last August, he went to the Pacific coast, expecting orders for overseas service, but instead, he has been retained at Hamilton Field, California with the Air Transport Command, where he is serving in the Fleet Post Office. "Cam" has had plenty to do assisting in handling of the mail. He has, however, had opportunity to serve in the interests of morale by sharing his baseball ability, the first time in about four years. He is on his A.T.C. team with some of the big leaguers namely, Gerry Pridely from N.Y. "Yanks"; Johnnie Beasley, St. Louis "Cards"; Joe Marty, Chicago "Cubs", and a man from the Cincinnatti "Reds". Cam says it seems good to be pushing the pill around again. Besides being fortunate enough to meet it for one homer, a three and sometimes two-sackers, he also has got a beautiful black, or blue, or both eye from a ball that didn't bound just right-- you know, one of these that "hit a stone". Cam is finding the Golden Gate much to his liking.

Bob Varney is on the high seas headed toward South America.

Richard Wilkinson, who has been home on furlough, said that he had met up with Ruth Robbins when he landed in Charlestown, S.C. Richard incidentally, looks fine and really fills out his uniform.

Wiljo Pesola can be added to the list of those boys now in France.

Walter Parker is back in the States, out California way, and is awaiting for an assignment to a new ship.

Lt. Marjorie Bennett left home on Oct.12th to start her trip to a Replacement Centre in South Carolina.

Clarence Elliott writes that he received the July issue of the Readers' Digest and also three issues of the Ashby Town Pump which he enjoyed very much. He writes that Wallace was, at the time he was writing the letter, quite near to him.

Wallace writes of hearing a band concert while going through a town in France. "It sounded very nice and made me think of the fine concerts back home. We were moving so fast we heard only one piece."

Warren, though, tops both his brothers letters with a picture including his picture riding through France with his head in the lap of one of these beautiful French girls we hear so much about nowadays. Leave it to Warren to make the most of the gratitude which the French girls are so lavishly showering on our boys! He also writes that another passenger on the tank in which he was riding was Bud Kane, the first U.S. correspondent to enter Paris.

Ernest Beck, Jr. who lived in Ashby some years ago, is a gunner in a dive bomber in India and has completed eighty missions. His people now live in Springfield, Mass.

Sgt. Robert E. Pierr

Bob Varney is on the high seas headed toward South America.

Fred L. Taylor,Jr. (June) has sent home an emergency call for a supply of cigarette papers. Such a strange demand incited the curiosity of people here at home but on investigation it was learned that "June" wanted them to help cure a bad case of athlet 's foot. He puts them between his toes to stop friction.

Pvt. Everett Rackliffe, who recently was home on furlough, has been assigned to Camp Reynolds,Pa.

S/Sgt. Eino E. Malm, son of Mr. & Mrs. Victor Malm, of South Rd., has been awarded the Expert Infantryman badge at a base somewhere in the Central Pacific area. He received the award for his proficiency in shooting and all round infantry training.

Harold LaRoche MMR 3/C, who was home on a 15-day leave last month has returned to his base at Whitney Field, Florida. While in New York he met his brother Henry, a gunner's Mate in the Navy, whom he had not seen for one and a half years.

Paul Heikkila,S 2/C, is studying to be an electricians mate at Bainbridge, Maryland.

Raymond Heywood S-2/C recently was graduated from Motor Torpedo School at Melville, R.I. and is now stationed at New Guinea.

We have just heard that Toivo Haavisto is now a Corporal and is stationed at Brooklyn Field, Ala.

Elroy Walker and his wife have recently been home on a short furlough after many months of active service. He has been promoted to Chief Yeoman and has five service stripes. You might recall that Elroy was Chief Radio Operator on the U.S.S. Ancon which was the admiral's flagship in the four major invasions in Europe and Africa.

Pvt. Charles Mattson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Mattson who have recently moved to Brementon,Washington, is now with the armed forces in Belgium. He is assisting to restore telephone connections which were torn down by the retreating Germans.

Leonard A. Hayes A.M.M. 2/C, stationed at the naval air base at Atlanta, Georgia, recently had the unusual experience of being paid to see a thrilling football game in Atlanta, on October 21. He was assigned for shore patrol duty at the Georgia Tech-Navy game and the game was a thriller. But the most exciting time happened after the game was ended. A man who had won $ 3600 on the game decided to distribute his bet in $ 10 bills to the Servicemen, and just as Leonard was about to board a bus, the man with the roll of money in his hands, rushed up and handed him one of the $ 10 bills.

Leonard thought he had a very enjoyable afternoon seeing the game and receiving money for it.

We have seen a few letters from Ralph Varney, who is now stationed at Robbins Field,Macon, Ga. He is particularly fond of the Southern Railroads, which at times achieved the remarkable record of travelling 50 miles in 2 3/4 hours. Flocks of hens and stubborn cows blocking the way, plus frequent back-yard stops added to the dreary trip. Robbins Field is tremendous, about 36 miles around, and has amongst other facilities 6 swimming pools. Ralph is learning about transmitters, blind flying sets and other numerous instruments, and has been all over a B-29. Part of their training is to repair planes that have been damaged and to date he has worked on B-25's and P-47-D's.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Warren Cutting	Dec. 10
Clarence Elliott	Dec. 10
Aura Louhi	Dec. 10
John Bailey,Jr.	Dec. 28
Marston Page	Dec. 31

Kenneth Tefft has sent a paper from Honolulu to Myron Harris to show that Ashby has made World-wide news. The article was about Raymond Wilkinson receiving his Christmas packages after returning home. Kenneth is at the Kaneohe Naval Station in Hawaii.

Perhaps these boys don't realize it, but Wallace Johnson and Albert Olson are in the same unit, 103rd General Hospital in France. Then John Bailey and Ernest Holmes are in the same unit- Ground Forces Replacement Pool.

Chester Hardy was recently flown home from India in five days, where he was stricken with rheumatic fever. He is now recooperating at the Cushing General Hospital, Framingham.

S/Sgt. Edwin Connor, husband of Evelyn Rackliffe Connor, has been transferred from the Syracuse Air Base, N.Y. to Fort Wayne Indiana. The latest news is that his address now is C/o of Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Arnold Piper, who has been living in Pensacola, Fla. where "Arnie" is stationed at the Naval Base, has returned to spend the winter with Mr. & Mrs. Walter Piper.

Frances Edna Evans, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William E. Evans of Watatic Mt. Road has reported to the WAVES for training at Hunter College. A native of Fitchburg, Miss Evans was graduated from Ashby High School in 1941, where she was Secretary of the Athletic Association and a member of the Glee and Dramatic Clubs. Prior to her enlistment, she was employed as a payroll clerk at the Independent Lock Co. and at the Whittemore Ordinance Depot, Ft. Devens.

Capt. and Mrs. Addison Clark and daughter Allison, recently made a quick visit to Ashby. "Addy" looked grand and says he is looking forward to returning to Ashby and his old job as soon as the time is right. Capt. Clark is stationed at Camp Rucker Alabama.

Pvt. Leslie Kincaid according to word received by his relatives, has been invited to participate in a genuine tiger hunt in India. "Les", as we all know him, has accepted the invitation and expects to send a real tiger skin home to his wife soon.

Pfc. Johnny Johnson

Speaking of baseball and other entertainment of which our boys and girls in the service are fortunate enough to get some, Johnny has socialized with such notables as Bob Hope and his group, including Frances Langford, Jerry Colona, Patty Thomas and others, all in person on the stage, and on the diamond, no les less than Joe Dimaggio, Joe Gordon, Mike McCormack, Priddy, Liodigiani and others.

Johnny also writes that Gwendolyn Rajala has given her boy friend from Greenville, N.H. very definite orders to entertain Johnny with airplane and jeep rides and Johnny says he's doing all right.

THOUGHTS OF HOME

Don't let anyone make you believe that all of the married men in the service are not constantly keeping in mind their loved ones at home. An outstanding evidence of this was the recent receipt by Marilyn Hopkins of a letter from her dear Chester, containing what Polly thought by the "feel" of the envelope before she opened it, was one of those exquisite silk handkerchiefs which no one but her husband would be able to obtain. But, lo! Instead she found whiskers three inches long, of which Chester has relieved his chin. Says Marilyn"I bet he's relieved to get rid of those hot things, although they must have

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Mrs. Addison Clark
Addison, recently

looked pretty on him---- such graceful fibres."

Cpl. Richard Piper, stationed at Westover Field, Chicopee, recently spent a 15-day furlough with his parents.

TOWN NEWS

Arthur Hemlin, Bill's brother, was at the Burbank Hospital for over two weeks after an operation and is now home recuperating.

Recent heavy registrations of new voters has brought the Ashby total up to 554, with the division of 296 males and 258 females.

Carl H. Brandt has sold his filling station and home on the Ashby State Road near Sheldon Bridge to Mr. C. Lefebvre recently of Detroit.

Mr. & Mrs. Brandt are making their home for the present with their son, Aaron Brandt in South Village.

Mr. & Mrs. John M. Mattson and daughter Aileen have moved to Brementon, Washington, where they are employed in the Navy Yard. Before leaving Ashby, they held an auction at their home on Main Street and disposed of their household goods.

Mrs. Florence Jacobson, District Deputy President, and suite installed the officers of E. A. Spaulding Rebekah Lodge in Townsend recently. Members of her suite were Martha Rackliffe, Clarissa Lawrence, Sophia Lawrence, Bernice Rackliffe, Lucy Bingham, Ruth Varney Marguerite Mills of Ashby and Maude Badger of Groton.

Miss Elmi Frigard, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Semmi Frigard was married to Mr. Hjalmar Aho of New Ipswich in the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church in New Ipswich. She attended Ashby schools.

A special town meeting was held Friday October 20, one of the briefest ever held in town. It was voted to transfer money from free cash to the school appropriation and for repairing roads damaged by the 1944 floods. Exactly 4 minutes was taken to transact the business.

Professor Stephen Hamblin of Lexington, uncle of Cpl. Richard Wilkinson, spoke on "Rehabilitation" at a supper given by the Alliance on Wednesday, October 11. Prof. Hamblin in on the Governor's Council for Rehabilitation and is National Secretary of the War Parents of America.

An outdoor honor roll of all the Ashby men and women in the service has been made by Bennie Carroll, with the names inscribed by Eleanor Ballou La Roche.

P.T.A.

The Executive Committee of the Parent-Teachers Association has met and discussed many interesting objectives and programs for this season which will be presented to the membership at the next meeting on November 9th. Principal Pernaa suggested and will arrange a program for the next meeting on November 9th in which will be demonstrated the sciences and art of teaching methods used in the first and second grades in our school. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Tracy, the teacher of these grades, it is planned to demonstrate a session with these classes exemplifying it exactly as it is done in the school room. Programs similar to these will be of interest equally to parents, teachers, and youth are planned for the season.

The Ways and Means Committee are sparing no effort to keep up the good work done last season in public entertainment and amusement. A most interesting and successful season isaassured.

attended Ashby schools.

An old lady was on her way to church when she saw a mean little boy. "Young man," she said sternly, "why are you standing there throwing stones at that little girl?"

"Because I dasn't go any closer," replied the lad. "She's got whooping cough."

SCHOOL NEWS

The first Sophomore Dance of the school year was held at the First Parish Hall, October 20. George Wellington's orchestra furnished the music for the evening and the chaperons were Mr. & Mrs. Waino Pernaa, Mr. & Mrs. George Elliott, and Mr. & Mrs. Harold Brand.

The highlight of the eveing came when a complete Sunday dinner was raffled and won by none other than Joan Bailey, who later reported that the dinner tasted excellent. The dance turned out to be a grand success, and the class made a total profit of $28.26

BASKETBALL NEWS

The following is a list of the girls who are on this years basketball team: Barbard Bailey, Phyllis Aho, Laura Suokko, Doris Aho, Eileen Shattuck, Pauline Goguen, Dorothy Moore, Dorothy Sallinen, Barbara Jarvi, Jean Griffin, Sally Maki, Evelyn Simonds, Eleanor Bernhardt, Lois Bernhardt, Betty Walker and Iris Boudreau. Raili Honkale is the manager: Miss Elizabeth Hannart is the coach.

The boys team, with Mr. Pernaa as coach, is as follows: George Johnson, Wally Hill, Billy Underhill, Paul Foresman, Edwin Lord, Billy Tiilikkala, Robert Brand, Harold Brand, Paul Bernhardt, Victor Suokko, Robert Gumerus, and Richard Shattuck. Gerald Davis is manager.

Students Vs. Teachers

It was the first game of the season and the kids were just rearing to go. They were right on the ball. Despite the fact that they had just returned from their annual fall hike, their spirits were high and they were high and they were all anxious to win their first game. They hadn't had any practices, but they had an idea that they had an idea that they'd come through all right. The teachers, however, were ad determined to win as the pupils and they gave them a tough fight. The kids were accustomed to the floor while the teachers found our low ceiling quite a handicap. Many of the teachers had never played here before and the excellent coaching that the students received from Miss Tyer showed through witha victory of 23-18 in favor of the high school. Miss Tyer was the star player for the teachers and Laura Suokko starred for the students.

Ashby Teachers Vs. Townsend Teachers

The teachers of Ashby played the teachers of Townsend and won 38-34. The players included Tyer, Hannant, Hughes, McDowell, Guyer, Boulay and Graves, with Tyer and Hannant scoring all the points.

Among the players for Townsend were Mrs. Norma Butterfield, formerly a teacher at Ashby and Miss Erdine Adams, formerly a resident of Ashby.

The principals were the officials: Mr. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools, was the scorer.

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When giving the baby a bath, a thermometer is unnecessary. If the baby turns red, the water is too hot. If the baby turns blue the water is too cold. If the baby turns white, you will know he needed a bath.

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Annual Fall Hike

The Annual Fall Hike of the Ashby High School Athletic Assn. was recently held. The entire membership left the high school at 9:30 AM and hiked to Camp Middlesex in South Village where a program of games and sports was presented. A weenie-roast was held in the camp cabin. The group returned to the school at 2:30 PM.

The association hasorganized with the following as officers: President, Edwin Lord; Vice-President Walfred Hill; Treasurer Laura Suokko; Secretary, Ernestine Hugo.

One-Act Plays

The boys and girls of the high school who are in the one-act plays are as follows:

Freshmen Class- Margaret Moore, Eleanor Bernhardt, Iris Boudreau, Sally Haapale, Fred Evans, and Richard Tukianen will present "The Dearest Thing in Boots."

Sophomore Class- will present "The Prettiest Girl in Town" with Laura Suokko, Jean Griffin, Sally Make, Billy Underhill, Dorothy Sailinen, Robert Gumerus, Doris Flinkstrom, Robert Wilson and Robert Brand.

Junior Class play is "Ghost Farm". The cast: Barbara Bailey, Victor Suokko, Ernestine Hugo, Arlene Brewer, Eileen Shattuck, Paul Forsman, William Tiilikkala, and Doris Aho.

Senior class- "The Dummy". Cast includes Wally Hill, Irma Haapala Evelyn Simonds, Donald Rackliffe, Albert Schlemmer.

THE JARCY CLUB

This new organization, meaning "The Junior Ashby Recreational Center". was the outgrowth of a movement stimulated here in town to start a Boy Scout Troop. This met with little response, the feeling being that there were not enough boys in that age limit, required by the Boy Scouts of America, to continue the interest required year after year. The need in town was for a recreational center for the 'teen-agers. A student committee was formed under the sponsorship of Mr. & Mrs. John J. Mossman they went to work on forming the "Jarcy Club."

The Club meets weekly in the "Rumpus Room" given by the Mossman's for this purpose. The room is the barn next to the Arthur Wass's house. Each evening there is a host and hostess, voted upon at the previous meeting, who takes care of the refreshments, K.P. duty, and M.P. duty! They greet any guest they may be having that night and see to it that all are enjoying themselves at the ping-pong table, the minature bowling alley and other games that are provided.

The get to-gethers, consisting of the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Classes of the high school, start at 7:30 with a business meeting(how's that exchecker,) conducted by one of the boys from the Student Committee. After the serious business is over, general fun starts in. Refreshments are served at 9:00 and hot jive winds up the evening at 10:30.

Monday, October 30, a Halloween party is to be held. A hay ride, apple bobbing and maybe even a spooks alley will be in the offing--- who knows what the Halloween witch will bring forth the night she rides about Ashby.

BUS STRIKE

October 21: On Saturday night 75 or more drivers of the F.& L. suddenly developed an epidemic "illness")(that is, they went out on strike) without warning the public or giving the usual patrons of the busses an opportunity to plan for such a quick stoppage of transportation. Naturally the peopled expressed their indignation in no uncertain terms.

Farewell Party

On October 16, the members of the Jarcy Club gave a farewell party for Miss Ann Tyer of the faculty, who has resigned to accept a position at Lee, her home town. Games were played at the beginning of the evening and music followed. Miss Tyer was presented a sweater and pin, accompanied by a card from the classes to express their thanks for her work duringthe last three years at the high school. Dancing was also enjoyed and refreshments were served with all nine cakes consumed in short order,--eh, Billy Tiilikkala?

X * X * X * X *

Good men of Ashby, listen well,
A problem I would mention:
It threatens every one of you,
And needs your close attention.
Now ever since the women folk
Have gone so Thrift Shop minded,
It's hard to credit your own eyes
You sometimes think you're blinded.
With Sally wearing Lizzie's shoes,
And one of Lizzie's dresses,
You cannot blame her husband when
He greets her with caresses.
Yes, things have reached a pretty pass,
This trouble has to stop.
Why can't we rent Jim Allen's barn
And start our own "Thrift Shop?"
Then we could wear each others suits
I'm selfish, there's no doubt.
Perhaps I'll just be wearing yours
'Cause mine are all worn out.
H.A.W.

X X X X X X X X X X

A bill which may empower all officers of the Army Dental Copps to drill the troops was passed by the Senate today and sent to the house. Companee-ee rinse!

X X X X X X X X X

Lt. Dorothy Bernhardt writes from somewhere in France-"One of our big jobs is to keep the morale of our patients sky high, which I will admit is sometimes a very difficult thing to do. I have found that when the boys come to our hospital, they are so glad to see an American girl. It makes one feel good to hear what they really think of their own American girls.

The other day we had a G.I. orchestra come to our hospital and play for the patients. It was great to hear good old American music. It sort of makes one feel funny when you think of what the Americans do in a combat zone, for instance, holding dances, playing baseball and volley ball and every other game possible. Leave it to the Yanks -----.

I want to thank you for the "Town Pump". You really don't know how interesting that paper is. I hope you continue to print it. Thank you again.

How is Ashby these days? I sure do miss the old town. I guess it will seem sort of strange to me when I get back. I've been away from it a year and a half now, eight months of that have been spent over here. I often wonder when I will return and how it will be when I do.--"

When God passed out brains
I thought he said trains
And I missed mine.
When He handed out looks
I thought He said books
And I didn't take any.
When He handed out noses
I thought He said roses
And I ordered a big red one.
When He handed out ears
I thought He said beers
And I ordered two short ones.
When he handed out legs
I thought He said kegs
And I ordered two fat ones.
God-- Am I a mess.

X X X X X X X X X X X X